

I am writing in favor of dropping the morse code requirments. Though morse code does have a place in amateur radio, it should not be required to gain access to frequinces below 30 Mhz. I have been in radio for over 25 years and now currently hold a technician class license. I have passed the written tests for general, but could not get past the code test for the last 20 years. I am currently with the US Army MARS program which does give us HF access (2-30 mhz) without morse code tests. In MARS we use Pactor, Amtor, Clover and various other digital modes which make morse code outdated due to its low data rate. I have personally made Pactor connections on military frequinces where I could NOT here the other station I was sending to, but my station continued transmitting data at 100 baud to finish the message transfer and I also went back and re-read the message that I transfered with the same nearly non-exsistent propogation conditions, the frequncy I was using was near the 40 meter band. There are more efficent ways of transferring data just as reliably in these high technology times. Morse code is just a barrier keeping allot of good, dedicated people above 30 Mhz that have the expertise to propel amateur into the new century. By all means, please keep a portion of the bands for morse code only, but please allow those of us whom have moved on to more efficent means of digital communications to participate too. We all have something to offer.